Good afternoon. Bonne après-midi.

Thank you for joining us for today's update on the federal government's on-going response to the illegal blockades, which pose a national security threat to our borders, our economy and to the health and safety to all Canadians.

To begin, I am pleased to report that three of the most important border crossings in Canada are now open to trade and travel.

In Alberta, the Coutts Border Crossing reopened yesterday after the successful enforcement operation by the RCMP I just mentioned.

In BC, the Pacific Highway Border Crossing south of Surrey has also reopened after enforcement action by the RCMP, including 12 arrests.

In Windsor, the Ambassador Bridge, where roughly a quarter of Canada's daily commercial trade was blocked for almost a week, is now re-open.

In Manitoba, I can inform that the RCMP and CBSA are hoping to re-open the Emerson Border Crossing later today.

This means that Alberta beef, BC salmon and Manitoba pork can once again be exported to markets across North America.

This successful work by the Windsor Police, RCMP and OPP to end the illegal blockade has resulted some 50 arrests and 90 charges.

This means that families in Windsor, Oakville, Ingersoll, Alliston and so many other communities know that they will be able to go work in the morning and earn a paycheque.

Trade is now flowing in both directions, and I'm pleased that factories across Southern Ontario have resumed production.

As we know, the RCMP made 13 arrests earlier this week at the Coutts Border Crossing, and seized many firearms, a large supply of ammunition, body armor, high capacity magazines and a machete.

And yesterday, four men were charged with a conspiracy to murder officers.

As the Deputy Commissioner of the RCMP noted: *"Monday's weapons seizure and subsequent arrests speak to the serious criminal activities taking place during this protest and illegal blockade. The dangerous criminal activity occurring away from the TV cameras and social-media posts was real and organized. It could have been deadly for citizens, protesters and officers."*

We need to be clear eyed about the seriousness of this incident.

Indeed, several of the individuals at Coutts have strong ties to far-right leaders who are in Ottawa right now.

We are talking about a group that is organized, agile, knowledgeable, and driven by an extremist ideology, driven by a might makes right type of rule.

This is completely contrary to our democratic values.

On Monday, the government took the deliberate step of invoking the Emergencies Act for the first time in our country's history.

The declaration gives targeted, temporary and special authorities to law enforcement to help them

The powers exercised are intended to give law authorities new tools to not only bring down the blockades, but to prevent future similar threats by maintaining security at our borders, legislatures and other critical infrastructure.

Compte tenu des paramètres de la Loi sur les mesures d'urgence, le gouvernement s'attend à ce que ces pouvoirs temporaires soient exercés par les forces de l'ordre de façon responsable, proportionnelle, de concert avec les autorités provinciales existantes, et toujours dans le respect de la Charte.

La déclaration et les décrets qui en découleront aideront la police et les autres autorités compétentes à mettre fin rapidement et de manière

pacifique aux barrages illégaux et à maintenir ouverts les corridors essentiels.

Ils aideront à mobiliser rapidement les services essentiels - comme les dépanneuses, les barrières et autres équipements.

La GRC peut être dépêchée plus rapidement pour faire respecter les lois locales et provinciales.

De plus, la Loi sur les mesures d'urgence donnera des pouvoirs temporaires aux banques et aux institutions financières afin d'arrêter le flux de produits et de devises qui pourraient être utilisés pour aider et encourager les blocages illégaux.

Last night, we shared the orders which detail exactly how the Act will be implemented.

In particular, it outlined how an individual “must not participate in a public assembly that may reasonably be expected to lead to a breach of the peace.”

This includes disputing the movement people or trade, interfering with critical infrastructure or supporting or threatening violence against people or property.

Over the past three weeks, we have seen all of this and more on the streets of Ottawa and at major border crossings.

And I’m most concerned about the third and final point.

This is a serious situation.

We must resist the temptation to dismiss these isolated incidents.

At the core of this movement is anger, animosity and in far too many cases, arms.

We are seeing it play at our borders, in front of our legislatures, our national symbols, and in our communities.

Unfortunately, many residents in Ottawa have had the same reassurance.

La situation dans la capitale nationale reste très grave.

Et c'est exactement la raison pour laquelle nous avons pris l'importante mesure d'invoquer la Loi sur les urgences.

Depuis le début de cette situation, nous nous sommes engagés auprès des Canadiens à utiliser tous les outils à notre disposition pour les aider à retrouver leur vie.

Comme je l'ai déjà dit, la situation au centre-ville d'Ottawa, surtout les fins de semaine, est tout simplement inacceptable.

La Loi sur les urgences donnera à la police de nouveaux pouvoirs d'application de la loi pour maîtriser la situation.

To those who may be thinking about coming this weekend: don't.

At best, the residents of this city have made it clear that you are not welcome here.

And at worst, you are tying yourself to dangerous criminal activity.
This has been an extraordinarily hard two years for all Canadians.
Everyone's mental health has suffered.

But for those who've had their community occupied or can't go to work because of a blockade, the past three weeks have presented a whole new type of stress and anxiety.

We owe it to them, and to our friends and neighbours, to end the illegal blockades and help Canadians get their lives back.

Thank you. Merci.